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New 'Backroads' episode premieres Nov. 27

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NEWS RELEASE

Nov. 21, 2006

Contact: William Marcus, host, 406-243-4154; Gus Chambers, producer (Kilns/Lorash Family), 406-243-4093; Ray Ekness, producer (Lewistown, center of the state), 406-243-4088; John Twiggs, producer (Johnnie Thomas), 406-243-4565.

CORRECTION: A previous version of this release had the wrong time for the premier. Please use this corrected version.

NEW 'BACKROADS' EPISODE PREMIERS NOV. 27.

MISSOULA —

A new episode of the popular television travelogue series "Backroads of Montana" premieres at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 27, on MontanaPBS (check local listings for channel).

In this episode, the "Backroads" crew travels with the Lorash family from **Fishtail** who gather with friends near **Lodge Grass** to move animals onto summer range. Two of the best hands on the crew are young sisters, Alaini and Mikela Lorash, ages 11 and 9.

Then the crew sets off to find the exact center of Montana. There are competing sites in and around **Lewistown**, but scoped out with a global positioning system the exact spot is revealed in a surprising place.

The program discovers some abandoned beehive charcoal kilns west of **Melrose** on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. The kilns are all that's left of one of Montana's earliest and most productive gold smelters.

The final story is a profile of Johnnie Thomas, a **Miles City** woman who's maintaining her family's connection to the African-American history of eastern Montana. Her husband, Bill

-more-

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Thomas, grew up in Miles City. He was a descendant of Sadie Butler, one of General Nelson A. Miles servants.

William Marcus hosts the program from the **Columbus** barber shop where Bob Harsha has been cutting hair for 60 years.

“Backroads of Montana” is produced by KUFM-TV at the Broadcast Media Center at The University of Montana. Funding is provided by the Greater Montana Foundation, Travel Montana and UM. MontanaPBS is a cooperative service of KUSM-TV at Montana State University-Bozeman and KUFM-TV at UM in Missoula.

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